

SECRET

NPIC/TSSG/DED-1472-69  
8 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Engineering Support Division, TSSG/NPIC

SUBJECT : Super-Wide Print Straightener

1. Your Test and Evaluation Interim Report on the Super-Wide Print Straightener was received and read by our Division.
2. The course of action to be undertaken on this project is outlined in the Staff Study attached to this memorandum.
3. The initiation of this as a new project will be recommended to IPEC in the near future.

[REDACTED]  
DCh/Development & Engineering Division,  
TSSG

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Attachment:

1. Wide Print Straightening-Staff Study

Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
- 1 - NPIC/TSSG/DED
  - ✓ 2 - NPIC/TSSG/DED/R&DB-II

X1 NPIC/TSSG/DED/R&DB-II/ [REDACTED] (8 Jan 69)

Declass Review by NGA.

SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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31 December 1968

Wide Print Straightening--Staff Study

1. PROBLEM

Photographic prints tend to curl when dried. Print straighteners are commercially available for straightening prints up to 16 inches wide but the Center produces prints up to 30 inches wide.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

a. In November 1965, Development Objectives were prepared for a "Super Wide Print Straightener."

b. Proposals for the development of a wide print straightener were received from [redacted]. A request for a proposal was also sent to [redacted] but the latter did not respond.

c. The contract was awarded to [redacted] on 3 January 1967 for a cost of [redacted] was the Project Officer at that time.

d. In June of 1967 [redacted] left NPIC and I was assigned the project. At this point the contractor had completed his design and had begun fabrication of the equipment. The contractor first delivered the equipment on 17 July 1967. After repeated failure to meet acceptance, the machine was returned to the contractor and was not returned to NPIC until 6 September 1968. Shortly thereafter the machine was accepted. However, it was not sufficiently well designed for operational production use and after one week in the Photo Lab it was removed. A Test & Evaluation Interim Report, NPIC/TSSG/ESD/TEB-22-68 (attached), was prepared by the Test and Evaluation Branch covering their work on this project and includes suggested courses of action concerning the subject equipment.

3. DISCUSSION

a. There is no reason to believe that a Wide Print Straightener cannot be developed or that, once developed, it cannot solve NPIC's print straightening problem. Difficulties began when the contractor produced

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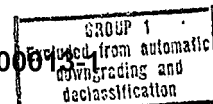
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a marginal design for the Print Straightener. After the equipment was built, modifications to solve one problem only led to problems in other areas. The largest deficiency of the machine was the inadequacy of the drive system (motor, pulleys, etc.) used for the cloth belt.

b. The alternative courses of action recommended in the attached report are all possible but it is felt that considerable time and effort has already been expended by both NPIC and the Contractor on the present design with little results. Even if the machine were put into running condition, its dimensions are such that it has always been difficult to feed a 30 inch wide print through without damaging the sides of the print. It would probably be easier to build a new machine than to correct this deficiency. It is, therefore, recommended that no more effort be expended on the present machine and that a new program be initiated.

c. The need to straighten wide prints still exists.  of PSG has verbally expressed this requirement.

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#### 4. PROPOSED PROGRAM

a. Study Problem. The first task that should be performed in this program is to study anew the problem of the straightening of prints. Three years have elapsed since this problem was first studied. Some of the questions to be answered are:

1. How are curled prints used now?
2. How many wide prints need be straightened per year?
3. Can modifications be made to existing drying equipment to eliminate or reduce curl?

b. Suggest Alternative Solutions. At least several possible alternative solutions will be suggested. Several tests or even breadboards may be made to determine the feasibility of some of these solutions.

c. Compare Alternatives and Develop the Most Promising. After probabilities of success have been evaluated and costs have been estimated, the most promising candidate or candidates will be designed and developed. This may be an in-house development if the job does not appear too complex.

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